

## FROM A LETTER OF MR. DRAKE.

*Damascus, June 11, 1871.*

" I ENCLOSE a few of the inscriptions\* that I copied (in all about 120) in Jebel Druze Hauran. I have had no time to write out more of them. I was only there a few days, so did not collect so many as I hope to do on a second visit. Some of them have, I know, been already copied, but others were so covered with lichen, that it was impossible to make anything out till I had cleared them; others were concealed by plaster in the houses. From Jebel ed Druze, after much opposition from the Druzes at Shukka, who were afraid to accompany us and were ashamed of letting us go alone, we went to Umm Nirán (*Mother of Fires*), a curious cavern, partly natural and partly artificial, in the great lava outburst (called El Wár, the *Rugged*) between the Lohf Ergheile and the Tubul Ergheile (called *geile*, and incorrectly laid down by Wetzstein). There are no ruins near it, and it is very curious, as water drips from the roof, and the whole of the country above is an arid fiery waste of black lava. Thence we went to El Akir and other volcanic tels in the neighbourhood, thence to Bir Kasam, and afterwards to Jebel Dakweh. From these volcanoes, many of which are of considerable size, I was able to lay down the whole series of tels north of the Sufa. From Jebel Dakweh we went to Dumeir, and just missed, by a few hours, a foray of 100 horsemen and 200 men on camels, who seem to have been dodging us for two days, but who missed us owing to our erratic course. They plundered Harran el Awamid and two neighbouring villages within half hour's ride of a camp of 600 Turkish soldiers.

" In the Hauran we found the true source of the Leja (Tel Shihan), whose streams have been quite overlooked by previous travellers. Wetzstein's 'great lava stream,' from Jebel Kuleib (which we ascended), only exists on his map. Jebel Kuleib, *the turning-point*, not as Mr. Porter translates it, *the little heart*, gave a valuable round of angles.

\* These can be seen at the office of the Fund.

GREEK INSCRIPTION ON A STONE FOUND AT  
SAMARIA, NOW IN POSSESSION OF YAKOUB  
ESH SHELLABY.

FORWARDED BY DR. CHAPLIN.

Μ · ΔΙΚΙΝΝΙΟϞΑΔΕ  
ΞΑΝΔΡΟϞΟΚΕΓΓ  
ΜΝΑϞΙϞΙΟϞΟΤ  
ΑΡΤΕΙΝΟΤΤΗΚΥΡΙΑ  
ΠΑΤΡΙΑΠΟΝΙΑΔΙΩΝ.